

Alternatively, the housing is adapted to store a 12 volt power cord with a cigarette type plug (not shown) that is itself connectable to a 12 volt battery, for example of an automobile through the cigarette lighter. Referring again to FIG. 1, housing 10 additionally includes a second housing portion 16 in the form of a hand grip that extends away from first housing portion 12 and which has a free end 18 in which there is arranged a second, lower intensity lamp 20. High intensity lamp 14 projects a beam generally along the longitudinal access 22 of first housing portion 12. Lower intensity lamp 20 projects a beam along a direction which is at an angle to longitudinal access 22 such that when the user of the portable lamp grasps the hand grip of second housing portion 16 and projects the beam of high intensity lamp 14 in a forward direction, the beam of the lower intensity lamp 20 will illuminate a pathway immediately in front of the foot steps of the user. Accordingly, the high intensity lamp 14 is utilized to illuminate more distant objects in front of the user while the lower intensity of lamp 20 is utilized to illuminate the foot path immediately in front of the user so that the user does not have to change the direction of the high intensity lamp in order to illuminate the foot path immediately in front of himself or herself.

High intensity lamp 14 is connected in a series circuit (not shown) with either the battery (not shown) enclosed within first housing portion 12 or the 12 volt power cord which itself is connectable to a battery. Lamp 14 is controllable on and off by a push button switch 24 which can be held in a depressed (on) position by a pin 26 (FIG. 5) which removably engages push button switch 24 for holding it in the depressed position in a manner which is well known in the art.

The portable light according to the invention additionally includes a support 28 which is located on a side of first housing portion 12 opposite from that of hand grip 16. As shown in FIG. 2, support 28 includes a first Y-shaped element 30 and a second element 32, both of which are pivotally connected to first housing connection 12. FIGS. 1, 5 and 6 shows support 28 in a closed position whereby element 30 and element 32 both lay flat against housing portion 12 and thus generally conform with the contour of the exterior surface of first housing portion 12. FIG. 2 shows support 28 in a deployed position whereby Y-shaped element 30 and element 32 are pivoted away from the housing to present essentially a three point stand for the portable light. Element 32 also functions as a hanging hook for the handheld light. FIG. 3 shows Y-shaped element 30 in a partially deployed position. In a fully deployed position, Y-shaped element 30 rests against a shoulder 34 as shown in FIG. 2 presented, for example, by a bezel 36 surrounding lamp 14. FIG. 4 illustrates Y-shaped element 30 and shows pins 38 projecting laterally from the single leg end 40 of Y shaped element 30. Pins 38 engage corresponding recesses (not shown) in first housing portion 12 to allow Y shape element 30 to be pivoted between closed and open positions.

Element 32 is in the form of a partial loop and has projections 42 (see FIG. 3) which engage corresponding recesses in first housing portion 12 to allow element 32 to pivot between open and closed positions. Additionally, first housing portion 12 presents shoulders 44 against which element 32 rests in its fully deployed position to thereby limit the pivoting angle of element 32. Element 32 also functions as a hanging hook for the handheld light.

A push button switch 46 located on the rear side of hand grip 16 is connected in a series circuit (not shown) with low intensity lamp 20 and the battery (not shown) or 12 volt power cord (not shown) enclosed within first housing por-

tion 12. Accordingly, high intensity lamp 14 which is controlled by switch 24 and low intensity lamp 20 controlled by push button switch 46, can be independently controlled to be on and off.

In use, the portable light according to the invention can be utilized as a traditional flash light. The high intensity lamp can be used, for example, for illuminating distant portions of a pathway as well and the low intensity beam can be used simultaneously for illuminating the path immediately in front of the user. Additionally, the portable light according to the invention can be utilized to illuminate a work space by deploying the support 28 so that the portable light rest on a three point stand whereby either one or both of the lamps may be turned on to illuminate the workspace. Typically, with a close-in workspace, only the low intensity lamp need be turned on to conserve battery power.

The invention has been described in detail with respect to preferred embodiments, and it will now be apparent from the foregoing to those skilled in the art, that changes and modifications may be made without departing from the invention in its broader aspects, and the invention, therefore, as defined in the appended claims, is intended to cover all such changes and modifications as fall within the true spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A portable light, comprising:

a first and second battery operated lamps;

a first housing portion having a longitudinal axis and enclosing the first lamp for projecting a first light beam in a direction of the longitudinal axis of the first housing portion, the first housing portion having an exterior surface and including a battery compartment for holding a battery connectable in circuit with the first lamp;

a second housing portion having a shape of a hand grip and extending from a first side of the first housing portion in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the first housing portion, the second housing portion enclosing the second lamp connectable in circuit with the battery for projecting a second light beam in a direction forming an angle with the longitudinal axis of the first housing portion; and

a support pivotally connected to the first housing portion and being pivotable between a closed position in which the support lies flat against the exterior surface of the first housing portion and an open position in which the support forms a stand extending from an opposite side of the first housing portion for stabilizing the portable light source on a surface so that at least one of the first and second lamps can be directed toward a work area.

2. The portable light source according to claim 1, wherein the first lamp has a higher intensity relative to the second lamp.

3. The portable light source according to claim 1, wherein the second housing portion has a free end and the second lamp is arranged in second housing portion near the free end.

4. The portable light source according to claim 3, and further including switches for independently switching the first and second lamps on and off.

5. The portable light source according to claim 1, wherein the support includes a first element having a shape of a Y, with the single leg at one end of the Y pivotally connected to the first housing portion and the two legs at the other end of the Y adapted to rest on a surface when the first element is pivoted away from the first housing portion.

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6. The portable light source according to claim 5, wherein the first housing portion includes a first shoulder which presents a stop for limiting a pivoting angle of the first element of the support.

7. The portable light source according to claim 5, wherein the support includes a second element pivotally connected to the first housing portion for presenting a third leg adapted to rest on a surface when pivoted away from the first housing portion.

8. The portable light source according to claim 7, wherein the first housing portion includes a second shoulder which presents a second stop for limiting a pivoting angle of the second element of the support.

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9. The portable light source according to claim 1, wherein the compartment is adapted to receive a battery.

10. The portable light source according to claim 1, wherein the compartment is adapted to receive a d.c. power cord.

11. The portable light source according to claim 1, wherein the support generally conforms to a contour of the exterior surface of the first housing portion in the closed position.

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